



MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume VII Issue III

June, 2009

Banquet honors students' efforts



(Above) Front (left to right): Joshua Moore, Troy Townsend. 2nd Row: Tiffany Casares, Maryam Gary, Allyx Harper, Ranelle Miller, Brandon Harper, Kyle Humeumtewa, Ava Miller, Jay Moore, Leah Van Fleet, Chandel Sharp, Robin Wilson. 3rd Row: Eldred Enas, Richard Armstrong, Mervin Scott Jr, Dennis Welsh. 4th Row: Michael Drennan Jr, Dennis Patch. (Left) Mary Torres, J.T. Mariscal and Maria Sanders. CRIT would like to thank Sanders for donating \$500 for prizes for the students.

The 2009 CRIT Graduation & Scholastic Awards Banquet was held on May 22. The event was sponsored and coordinated by the Tribal Council with support from a joint effort between CRIT's Career Development, Johnson O'Malley and Education departments. The event was sponsored by Miller, Allen, & Co., PC, and REDW, LLC.

It recognized K-8 students with perfect attendance and honor roll, as well as graduates of high school, G.E.D.-Ombudsman, college, university and trade schools.

Council focused on budget and accountability

The CRIT Tribal Council has taken a "proactive" approach in the administration and accountability of the Tribes' finances to ensure Tribal services and Tribal enterprises remain in tact despite the national economic crisis.

"Money is tight, just as it is with every other government facing financial hardships right now. But by being actively involved in the day-to-day financial affairs of the Tribe, we now know better than ever where we stand financially. Which allows us to make better administrative decisions."

**— Tribal Treasurer
Dennis Welsh**

Dennis Welsh, Tribal Treasurer, stated, "Money is tight, just as it is with every other government facing financial hardships right now. But by being actively involved in the day-to-day financial affairs of the Tribe, we now know better than ever where we stand financially. Which allows us to make better administrative decisions."

When asked to describe CRIT's current financial status, he stated, "stabilized," and remains optimistic by saying, "We are working hard to

position ourselves so that we will not have to lay-off employees, or make drastic cuts in critical program funding."

According to Welsh, this was accomplished by passing a budget that reduced a lot of wasteful

Please see **ECONOMY**, Page 5

Beloved elder Tom Claw passes away

Former Navajo Code Talker, 87, was one of Tribes' most respected figures

CRIT lost one of its most beloved and respected members recently with the passing of elder Tom Claw, a Navajo Code Talker in World War II. Claw passed away on May 26 in Prescott. He was 87 years old. He was born in 1922 in Many Farms, Arizona.

After marrying wife Barbara in 1941, Claw enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943, and became one of only 29 Navajo military members to provide critical wartime communication to Allied troops.



Tom Claw

Claw was with the 1st Marine Division and served in several locations in the Pacific Theater from 1943 to the end of the war. Claw was recognized with two Presidential Citations for his heroic service, as well as the Purple Heart when he was injured serving in Okinawa.

Claw and his wife moved to the Parker area in 1948 as part of a group Navajo and Hopi families invited by CRIT to be colonists in the area. As part of the move, the families were required to

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News & Information From Your Tribal Council



Eldred Enas,
Chairman



Wayne Patch, Sr.
Vice Chairman



Mervin Scott,
Jr., Secretary



Dennis Welsh, Jr.,
Treasurer



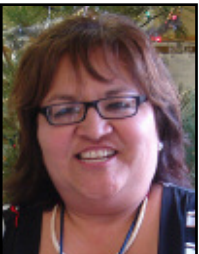
Valerie Welsh-
Tahbo



Richard
Armstrong



Johnny Hill, Jr.



Amanda Leivas-
Sharpe



Herman "TJ"
Laffoon

Colorado River’s water quality an issue critical to our successful future

When Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources recently, he didn’t have the best of news to report.

“The prognosis for the water quality in the Lower Colorado River, in the Tribe’s view, is not good,” he told the committee.

Upstream contamination, such as what could potentially reach the river from the Pacific Gas & Electric facility in Topock, poses a grave threat to CRIT’s quality of life. Our people rely on the Colorado River for everything from drinking water to farming to economic opportunities, and all of those things could be adversely affected by environmental issues.

Enas asked the Federal Government to play a stronger role in river contamination issues. In the case of Topock, for example, the Federal Government has not gotten involved because federal interests have not been directly affected.

However, if the Colorado River’s water quality is damaged to the point where it starts to affect public health or the economy, then it becomes a federal problem pretty quick.

“What concerns the Tribe is the risk that a state or municipality may not be able financially to devote the resources necessary to adequately monitor its shoreline for potential sources of harmful discharge, or effectively conduct or enforce an urgently needed clean-up,” Enas told the committee.

Enas pointed out to the committee that more than 30 million people rely on the Colorado River for drinking water, irrigation, recreation and other critical uses.

And Enas asked the Federal Government to complete a job that has been a long time coming — rehabilitating and completing CRIT’s irrigation system and ones like it up and down the river, in order to preserve resources and make them more efficient.

There’s only one entity that can serve as a bridge between the many varied interests and populations that use this critical resource, and that’s the Federal Government. We hope that this House Committee on Natural Resources hearing will be a key first step toward planning for the river’s future.

CRIT Police Department continues reform

New training, programs part of effort to improve service to tribal members

The CRIT Police Department is continuing with a series of reforms designed to improve its service to the community.

Richard Armstrong, CRIT Chief of Police and a Tribal Council member, said that efforts are being made to improve equipment and training in the department. Some of those efforts include:

- A continuing restructuring of the chain of command to make it more defined and to make sure personnel needs are planned for well into the future.
- “We’re starting to look ahead to where we want to be in five to eight years,” Armstrong said.
- Working with the CRIT Attorney General’s Office to develop a sex offender registration program, which Armstrong said they would like to have in place by fall.
- Working on juvenile justice issues, including the planning of a new detention center and refining how the officers handle juvenile crime issues.
- Salvaging the Tribes’ helicopter program,

which had been a potential budget cut. In talking with other area law enforcement agencies, Armstrong said the consensus was that the CRIT helicopter was particularly valuable because it is the only one in the area and is used regularly for rescues and pursuits.

- Adding more and more trainings and certifications for the police officers and the department as a whole.
- “If there’s a need our citizens have, we want to be sure we can fill it,” Armstrong said.
- Ongoing efforts to receive grants for more training and equipment.
- Changing the department uniforms and vehicle designs, with the goal being “to upgrade our professional image,” Armstrong said.
- “We want to make sure the people we work with view us with a level of respect and professionalism.”

Armstrong said that CRIT was recently approved for a grant from the federal government for training and equipment as part of CRIT’s designation as a “High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.”

CRIT is the only tribe in the United States with such a designation, which will help it in its efforts to fight methamphetamine use.

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Volume VII Issue II

April, 2009

Laffoon voted back to Tribal Council seat

Pledges to focus on economic issues and work with new council members

Herman "TJ" Laffoon has returned to the CRIT Tribal Council for a second term after winning a special election held on February 13.

Laffoon will fill the seat of Douglas H. Peltier, who was elected in a December election. He defeated seven other candidates to regain the seat. Laffoon successfully ran as an incumbent in the December Tribal Council election after serving several terms on the Council.

"We welcome TJ back to the Tribal Council," Enas said. "His experience and leadership will be valuable to all of us as we work to address the needs and challenges of the people of CRIT."

Laffoon said he was pleased to be back on the Tribal Council and thanked for the support of those who elected him. He said he would focus on helping to restore some members of the Tribal Council in some of the major issues facing CRIT.

He said a primary focus will be on economic development and new business opportunities for the Tribes, including the use of federal economic stimulus dollars.

"It's exciting to have the chance to let people know we are working to generate new revenue for the Tribe," he said. "We're going to go to the river and look at the river and see what we can do to make it a better place for everyone."

He said another area of focus for him will be examining the possibility of a water power project, and potential opportunities in general infrastructure that runs through Tribal lands.

Mega Throw celebrates culture

(Above) Stacie Schlegel goes all out in the dance circle, where she did her first dance. (Left) Two people and the group pose for a photo. (Right) Stacie Schlegel goes all out in the dance circle, where she did her first dance. (Left) Two people and the group pose for a photo. (Right) Stacie Schlegel goes all out in the dance circle, where she did her first dance.

The Mega Throw V took place on March 21 at the Akabane Preserve.

"The Mega Throw is a celebration of Mohave culture, music and heritage through the preservation of the Bird Song and Dance through CRIT's Mohave youth," according to organizers of the event.

But it was a song sung by Stacie Schlegel, and it was the first time she had danced. The Mega Throw is named for the one of the traditional Mohave songs.

Many photos from these events will be featured in this issue.

Photos by Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

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- Profile of Chairman Laffoon, Page 8
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New name picked for Wal-Mart center

"River People's Plaza" selected to be name for under-construction project

The CRIT Tribal Council has selected "River People's Plaza" as the new name for the Wal-Mart shopping center under construction in Parker.

The name was a combination of a couple of ideas that had been submitted to the Tribal Council as part of a contest.

The names of the contest can be found in the March 2009 issue of the Manataba Messenger.

CRIT also added a name for the new center, which was won by local resident Thomas Price.

"It was fitting that we were able to find a name to replace our former name and give it a new meaning."

Please see WAL-MART, Page 12

We want to hear from you!

The Manataba Messenger encourages letters to the editor. You may submit letters with a maximum of 250 words; letters longer than that will be edited for length. You are also encouraged to submit story ideas, anniversaries, birthdays and other announcements for publication.

Send letters and story ideas to:

26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

You may also e-mail letters to feedback@critonline.com

Current CRIT Job Opportunities

The following are some of the jobs currently open with CRIT, courtesy of the Human Resources Department. For a full listing, visit www.critonline.com.

Position: Scale Clerk
Department: Solid Waste
Salary: \$8.89 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Arcade Attendant (2 positions)
Department: BlueWater 4 Theatres, Arcade and Miniature Golf
Salary: \$7-\$8 per hour DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Tribal Planner
Salary: DOE
Close date: Tuesday, June 30 at 5 p.m.

Position: Airport Maintenance Technician — Lead
Department: CRIT Air
Salary: \$9.25 per hour
Close date: Wednesday, June 10 at 5 p.m.

Position: Airport Office Administrator
Department: CRIT Air
Salary: \$12.05 per hour

Position: Airport Maintenance Technician
Department: CRIT Air
Salary: \$9.25 per hour
Close date: Wednesday, June 10 at 5 p.m.

Position: Legal Secretary
Department: Office of the Attorney General
Salary: DOE

Position: Paralegal
Department: Office of the Attorney General
Salary: DOE (\$30,000 to \$32,000)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Lead Motel Associate
Department: Big River Development
Location: Kofa Inn/Big River Inn
Salary: Negotiable
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Enterprise Accountant
Department: Accounting
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: EMT/Firefighter (Station #80 — Parker)
Department: CRIT Fire
Salary: \$12.09 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: GIS Technician
Department: Ahakhav Preserve
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Head Start Director
Department: CRIT Head Start
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Colorado River Building Materials
Salary: Negotiable
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Sales Manager/Batch Plant Operator
Department: Colorado River Sand & Rock Enterprise
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Colorado River Sand & Rock Enterprise
Salary: DOE
Close date: Open until filled

To apply or for more information, contact CRIT Human Resources at 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, 85344, or call them at (928) 669-1321.

Upcoming Events

BlueWater Resort & Casino events

- On June 6, the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their 32nd Annual Great Western Tube Float. This year’s theme is “KOMONOWANNATUBEFLOAT.”
Last year more than 1,200 people participated in this event.
The float gets started at Patria Flats and ends at the beach of BlueWater.
To sign up for this event contact the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce at (928) 669-2174.
 - On July 4, BlueWater proudly presents in its Outdoor Amphitheatre “The Gin & Tonic Tour 2009” featuring Tonic and The Gin Blossoms.
In 2003 Tonic received two Grammy Nominations for Best Rock Performance By A Duo or Group With Vocal for “Take Me As I Am” and Best Rock Album for Head On Straight.
And with their classic sound and enduring songs, the Gin Blossoms — which were formed in the late 1980s in Tempe — have managed to generate new fans from across the demographic spectrum. Their first album, “New Miserable Experience,” was a multi-platinum hit in the early 1990s.
During the past years, they played festivals, fairs, sheds, arenas and casinos around the country.
Gates open at 7 p.m. and the concert starts at 8 p.m. The annual BlueWater Fireworks show will follow the concert.
Tickets are on sale in the BlueWater Gift Shop for \$20 in advance and \$25 day-of-show.
- ### Dig Lounge schedule
- Dig Lounge bands will go back to Tuesday thru Sunday nights in the months of June and July.
- The hours will be 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. and on Friday from Saturday nights from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ/Karaoke with Billy Joe Preston will be on Monday nights from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- The following groups will be performing in the Dig Lounge for the months of June and July:
- June 2-7 — “American Made,” a four-piece band featuring a female playing a wide variety of classic rock, oldies, Rhythm & Blues, country, Top 40, disco and dance Music.
 - June 9-14 — “Daemine,” playing classic rock, Rhythm & Blues and Top 40 dance.
 - June 16-21 — “Pilot,” with a female fronting a three-piece band playing Rhythm & Blues, Top 40 dance, classic rock, Old School and disco.
 - June 23-28 — “Swift Kick,” with a female fronting a three-piece band specializing in current dance music along with selections from the 50s to 90s.
 - June 30-July 5 — “The Crush,” playing hits from the 70s and 80s, classic rock and dance music, disco and current alternative dance.
 - July 7-12 — “The Mix,” with a female fronting a three-piece band playing a wide variety of dance music, classic and Latino music.
 - July 14-19 — “Pilot.”
 - July 21-26 — “Swift Kick.”

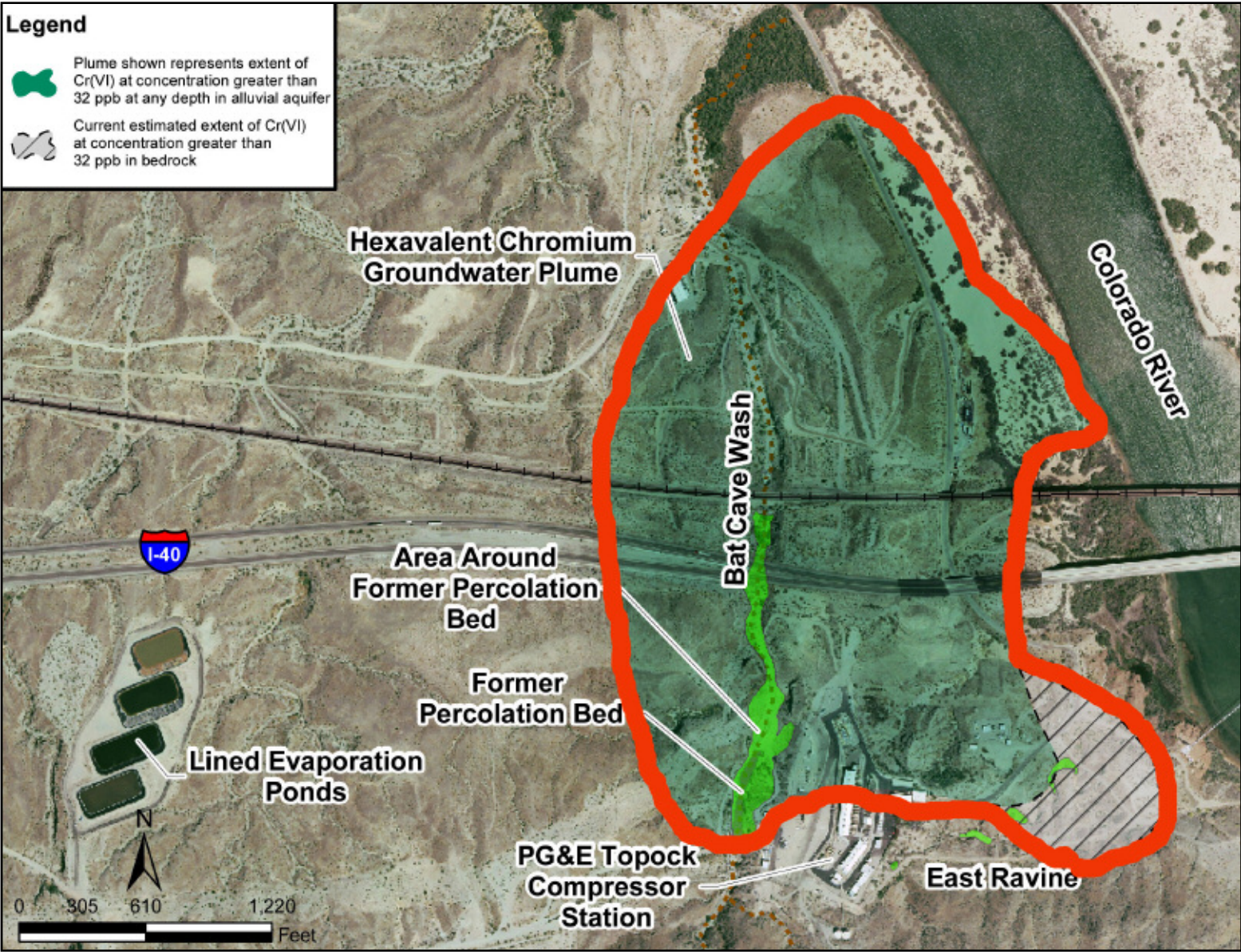
CRIT continues to monitor environmental issue upstream

In a document prepared by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) corporate headquarters in San Francisco and sent to federal and state agencies, PG&E states they want to push the groundwater contamination at the PG&E Topock site closer to the Colorado River, change the identified Hexavalent Chromium contamination to Chromium and then attach this contamination to the soil and leave it in the ground next to the Colorado River.

In response to PG&E’s proposal, CRIT has expressed serious concerns to federal and state agencies for this or any PG&E proposal that does not provide the greatest level protection for the Colorado River. CRIT further questioned PG&E’s proposal to push this contamination closer to the Colorado River and not actually remove the contamination but convert one type of contamination to another and leave it in the ground. CRIT representatives also wanted to know why the contamination was not going to be removed.

The state regulatory agency and PG&E are planning to have a number of local public meetings to discuss PG&E’s proposal. CRIT encourages all community members to attend these meetings and voice your concern. The dates, times, and location of the meetings will be announced shortly. We recommend that you call Christina Fu with the State Agency in Cypress, California at 1-866-495-5651 and ask her to notify you of any public meetings related to the PG&E Topock Site. You can also e-mail her at CFU@DTSC.CA.GOV.

CRIT is in the immediate pathway for any



This map shows the underground “plume,” or area where hexavalent chromium has entered the groundwater, in green. The area at the bottom right with lines through it is a new area of contamination that has appeared.

surface waters that may carry contamination. CRIT will be directly affected by any contamination emanating from the PG&E Topock site as its Tribal lands and people are on both sides of the Colorado River in the states of California and Arizona.

CRIT is already directly affected by any contamination emanating from the PG&E Topock Compressor Station and any and all Topock actions will affect and impact our health, well being, and way of life.

CRIT needs to be considered a significant major stakeholder in the discussions and proposed actions to remediate the enormous toxic contamination emanating from the PG&E Topock site as it has already affected the ground water and potentially the surface waters of the Colorado River.

We must work together to stop any more contamination moving closer to the Colorado River and have PG&E remove this contamination so the land and water can heal.

Diabetes Prevention Program looking for those with health risks

Submitted by the Diabetes Prevention Program

Diabetes is a serious problem for Native Americans, who suffer from some of the highest rates of diabetes in the world. Research has shown that it is possible to prevent diabetes through simple lifestyle changes, such as:

- Exercising more
- Eating healthy food
- Losing weight

Could I have Pre-Diabetes?

Most people don’t know if they have pre diabetes. You could have pre diabetes if:

- Someone in your family has diabetes
- You weigh more than you should
- You had diabetes when you were pregnant (gestational diabetes)
- You had a baby weighing over 9 pounds at childbirth

- A doctor or nurse has said to you that you have a “touch of sugar or “pre-diabetes”

Why join the Diabetes Prevention Program?

The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) can help you in several ways:

- Watching your health closely
- Provide classes on eating healthy
- Increasing physical activity and weight loss
- To delay or avoid getting diabetes
- To learn the best ways to prevent diabetes

Who can join the Program?

We are looking for people age 18 and older who have a medical condition called “pre-diabetes” and are interested in reducing their risk for developing diabetes. Native Americans enrolled in a federally recognized tribe living on or near the CRIT Reservation and enrolled in

Indian Health Service are eligible.

You should be willing to participate in regular diabetes prevention education classes and visits. You should be willing to stay in the project for up to 3 years.

How can I join the program?

Let the DPP staff know that you are interested in volunteering for the program. They will schedule you for medical visit to confirm that you are eligible. If you are interested in volunteering for the program, they will explain the program to you and answer any questions.

Where can I get more info about this program?

Diabetes Prevention Program
 12217 Kennedy Drive
 Phone: (928) 669-8090
 Fax: (928) 669-5264

ECONOMY,

From Page 1

government spending. Although passed in May, he said that the budget was a “true budget” based upon a lot of analysis by the Accounting Department staff.

Because of the plummeting national economy, it has forced the newly elected Council to take a stronger stance on unnecessary spending by making both the Council and each of the 32 tribal departments “responsible and accountable” financially to the Tribal membership. Welsh stated, “Basically, it has forced each council member to exercise his or her fiduciary responsibility to our people.”

This was accomplished by the following:

- Justifying and streamlining service program budgets in accordance with their missions;
- Strengthening the CRIT Accounting Department to ensure acceptable financial practices are maintained for compliance with auditing requirements;
- Identifying all tribal bank accounts & investments to ensure CRIT receives the return on investments;
- Hiring a qualified, certified controller to ensure better over-sight and compliance;
- Outsourcing certain financial services, such as payroll, to reduce expenses & financial liabilities that were incurred in the past;
- Eliminating the various boards that had day-

“We are finally positioning ourselves financially to be in a stronger position to begin planning to develop new enterprises, such as the gas stations, RV Parks, and creating more jobs.”

— Tribal Treasurer Dennis Welsh

to-day financial and operational control over the 10,000 acre tribal farm and other large revenue generating enterprises. Thus, eliminating the “redundancy” in the administration of tribal businesses and resources, while ensuring accountability & transparency.

• Bringing all of the Tribes audits current, so that crucial grant programs can have their contract monies up front at the start of the year, and not have to resort to a lengthy “reimbursement” process.

By taking the actions described above, Welsh stated, “We are finally positioning ourselves financially to be in a stronger position to begin planning to develop new enterprises, such as the gas stations, RV Parks, and creating more jobs. Hopefully, by doing these a long overdue tasks, we will have a brighter future for all of us.”

Finally, the Council will be able to provide current & up-to-date financial reports to the tribal membership at its regular monthly meetings, which has long been lacking.

Mr. Welsh can be contacted at Tribal Executive Offices at (928) 669-1219.

EPO outlines success with pesticide effort

By the CRIT Environmental Protection Office

The Environmental Protection Office, Pesticide Program has achieved several accomplishments in the last three years, starting with the development of an in-house Pesticide tracking System (PTS). PTS provides inspectors with the necessary information to undertake a pro-active rather than re-active approach when dealing with pesticide issues.

The following components make this system so successful:

- The ability to track all pesticide application of over 60 individual farms. We also maintain a database for every farm.
- Identifying all different types of pesticide applications done by aerial, chemigation or ground.
- Tracking all types of chemicals used by each individual farmer by the month, quarter or year.
- Tracking the all types of crops grown in the reservation.
- Databasing tribal and State certifications and permit expiration dates.

The second phase of the Pesticide Tracking System is the implementation of a Map-Info database that identifies crop, acreage, lessee, farms field number of every single agricultural field of the 85,000 acres that are currently under production. EPO inspectors can observe an application in progress identify the field and the grower, look at the Pesticide Tracking System and verify if a permit application had been submitted to EPO. All this information is available either out on the field or office.

Also, in 2007 we initiated a recycling pesticide container program and established a central location for farmers to dispose of their containers

free of charge. Without a recycling program pesticide containers would otherwise be burned or end up in a landfill. Currently, with the cooperation of applicators and farmers, a total of 24 tons of plastic pesticide containers have been removed from the reservation.

Additionally, a compliance assistance and outreach program was recently initiated by the pesticide program and is available to the all agribusiness in the community. Participants must conduct a self evaluation of their establishment by completing a check list provided by EPO that provides all the components necessary to be compliant with State, Federal and primarily Tribal Codes and Regulations.

Pesticide inspectors will review the check list with the participant and point out areas of concern and answer any questions by the participant, and both parties will agree on the amount of time necessary to address areas out of compliance.

EPO has also worked with lead paint inspection at the Head Start to protect the health and safety of our children, EPO worked with Head Start School management, Indian Health Services, the Tribal Council and other agencies combined efforts to address the situation. Funding for the lead abatement was approved through an emergency grant. The abatement was completed in five days.

Finally, our Pesticide Department has been actively involve in providing outreach and education to our farming community and established a schedule with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to provide Worker Protection Safety Training once a year and every other year hold a Train the Trainer Workshop.

CRIT Briefs

Applications ready for school grants

Applications for the School Grant Program clothing allowance can be picked up at the CRIT Executive Office or the front desk-reception area beginning July 1.

Those applicants living off the reservation may contact the Executive Office at (928) 669-1219 to request an application be mailed to them. Applications returned by fax will not be accepted.

All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements as well as income criteria.

Funding will no longer be on a first-come, first-served basis and will be prioritized as follows, with the exception of Boarding School applicants: No Income, Public Assisted, Single Working Parent, Two Income Family and Over Income.

Those applicants having two incomes or over income will be held pending processing of other applications.

CRIT receives conservation award

CRIT was one of the recipients of a Partners in Conservation Award presented by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

The award was presented for a collaborative partnership involving the Colorado River Basin states, Mexico, numerous Federal, state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental groups and private citizens for adoption of new, interim operational guidelines for managing the Colorado River in 2007.

“In the midst of the worst drought in more than a century, they formed an agreement that promises a future of cooperation in the Colorado River Basin for the next two decades,” Secretary Salazar noted.

The Colorado River provides water for more than 23 million people and two million acres of irrigated land in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

The Colorado River award was one of 26 national awards to individuals and organizations presented at a ceremony at Interior headquarters in Washington, D.C. to honor “those who achieve natural resource goals in collaboration and partnership with others.”

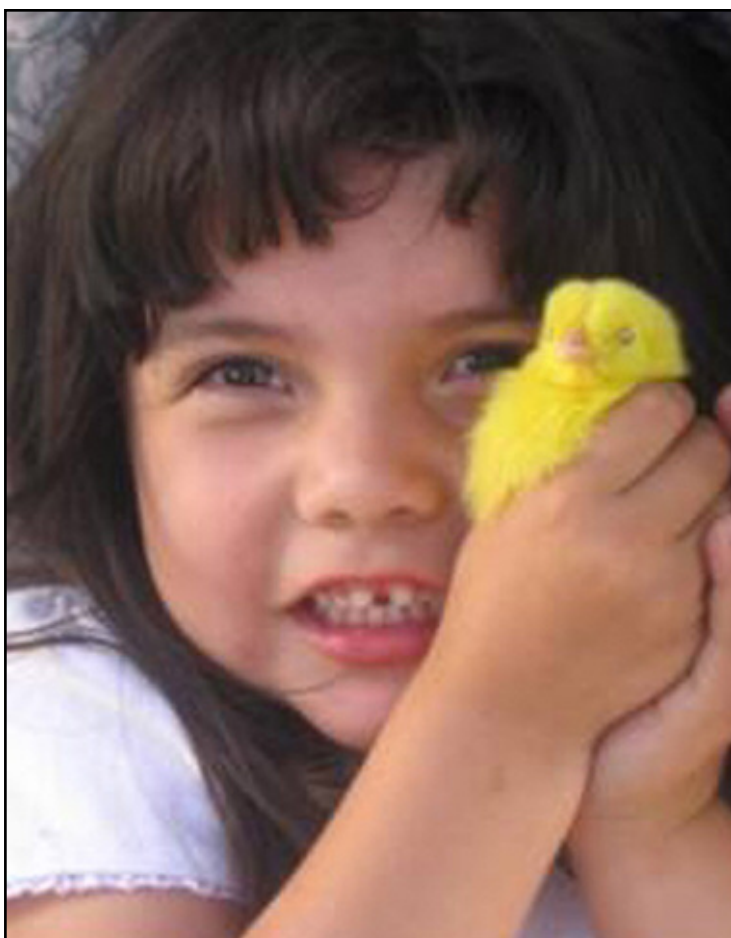
The 26 Partners in Conservation Awards recognize conservation achievements resulting from the cooperation and participation of a total of 600 individuals and organizations including landowners; citizens’ groups; private sector and non-governmental organizations; and federal, state, local, and/or tribal governments.

“In the case of the Colorado River, the partnership included literally thousands of people in 5 agencies of the Department of the Interior; 16 Indian nations, tribes or communities; city and state agencies in seven states; water districts; universities; and nonprofit conservation groups,” Salazar said.

“These 26 awards recognize the dedicated efforts of individuals from all walks of life, from across our nation — and from across our borders with Canada and Mexico,” Salazar said.

To submit briefs to the Manataba Messenger, e-mail us at feedback@critonline.com.

Kids rule again in *Messenger* June photo contest



Submit now, win in August

First place in the June 2009 Photo Contest went to Jo Ellen Nopah for her photo of cousin Eli Rasco enjoying his desert (above right). She will receive \$100.

Second place goes to Justine Peck for her photo of little Gavyn Leroy Hines (above left). She will receive \$50 for her entry.

Third place goes to Fawn Begaye for her photo of Rexford Allen Lockwood getting his first Harley bike (below right). She will receive \$25.

Honorable mentions go to:

- Waylan and Monte Stevens for their photo of Monte Stevens, Sr., who is hoping to be the next CRIT bullrider (middle left).
- Anson Humeumtewa for his photo of

Kailtyn Humeumtewa on Easter (bottom left).

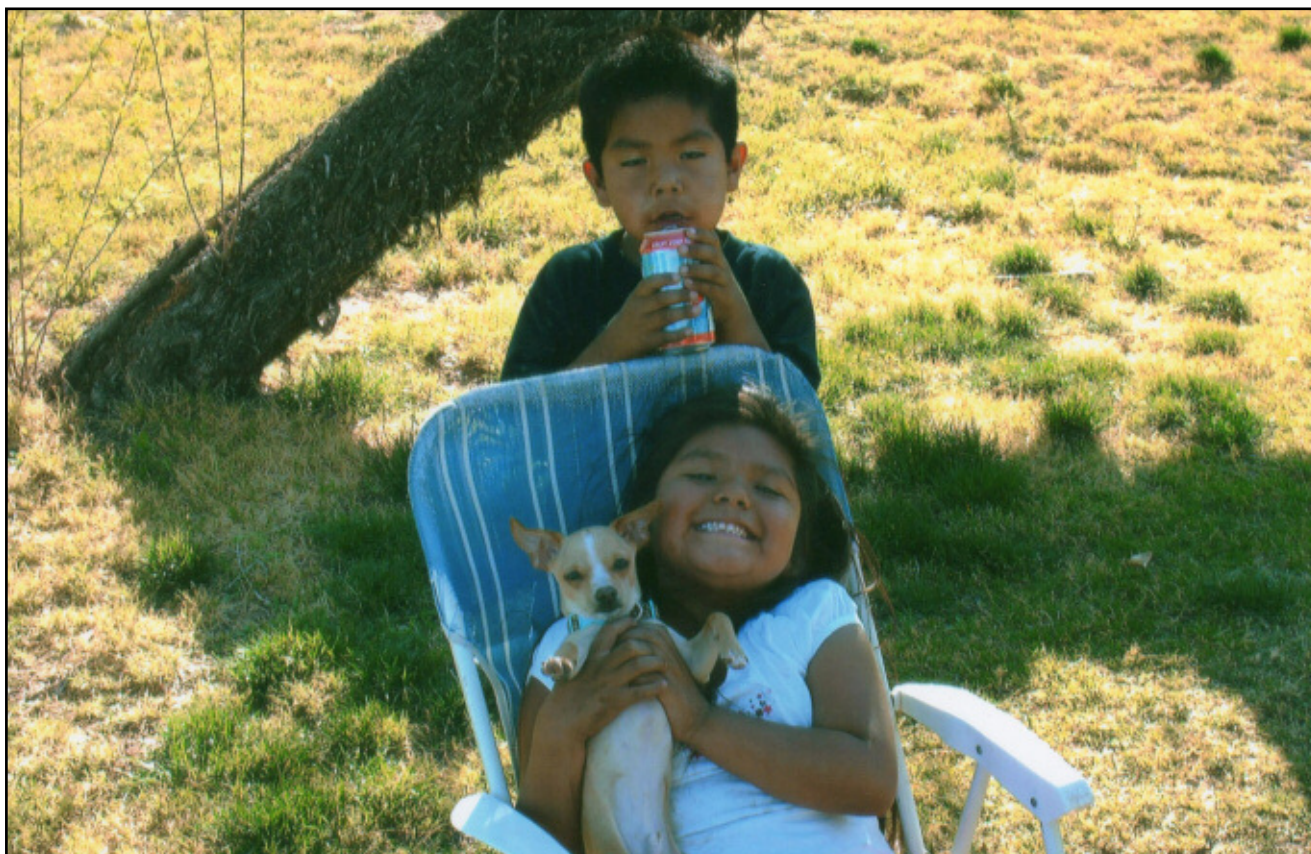
- Thomas Barrackman for his photo of cousins Benjamin Barrackman and Haeli Stevens (opposite page top).

- Trista Short for her photo of Roicia L. Sharp “having it her way at home” (opposite page middle).

- Tia Moore for her photo of daughter Jordyn Villaneda and her first Easter egg (opposite page bottom).

The deadline for submissions for the August issue is July 15. You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible. Send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn, 7144 E. Stetson Drive Suite 400, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or, e-mail the entry to feedback@critonline.com.





Enas testifies to Congress on water quality

Encourages Federal Government to take role in Colorado River issues

The Federal Government should play a lead role in helping to maintain the water quality of the Colorado River, Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas told a key U.S. House of Representatives committee recently.

Enas was invited to provide testimony to the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 27 in a hearing on lower Colorado River water quality issues.

Enas took the opportunity to educate the committee on just how important the Colorado River is to CRIT's way of life, as well as some of the challenges being faced.

Enas specifically cited several areas of concern:

- Over-allocation of Colorado River water.
- Contamination issues, including those being raised at the Topock clean up site up river (see related article on Page 4).
- Inefficient usage of river water due to non-modernized irrigation systems.

"While the Tribe is fortunate to have so large and senior an allotment of Colorado River water, we do not take the river for granted," Enas told the committee.

"The Colorado River is strong, but not invincible."

Enas said that over-allocation is a key issue because the heavy usage of river water increases the overall stress on the river and decreases water quality.

"The Colorado River Compact based its water allocation schedule on an average annual flow of 15 million acre feet per year pursuant to estimates available at the time," he said. "Modern scientific evidence indicates that a somewhat lower average annual flow — approximately 13.75 million acre feet per year — may be more accurate."

Enas said the Topock environmental issue is of particular concern, but there are other potential sources of contamination as well.

"In short, the prognosis for the water quality in the Lower Colorado River, in the Tribe's view, is not good," he said. "While not all of these situations pose severe or imminent danger downstream, water quality in the Lower Colorado River will not improve over time without reversing, or at least reducing these contaminant inflows."

Enas called on the Federal Government to take more of a lead role in issues where river water quality could be affected.

"Water quality on the Lower Colorado River is inexorably linked to the quality of the water that flows down from the Upper Basin region," Enas told the committee. "The health of the whole river system, the Upper and Lower Colorado River, can only be assured through oversight and coordinated management by Federal authorities."

— CRIT Graduation Announcements —

• Congratulations to my oldest daughter Shawni Rae Laffoon on your 8th grade Promotion and for being selected Wallace's 2009 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR! Keep up the excellent work and keep reaching for the stars. You bring so much joy to me and the rest of us; I'm so very proud of you and grateful for all you do. I will always love and support you. May you always walk in beauty.....So much love, Mom.

• Congratulations to my baby Jordyn Frances Laffoon and my nephew Ricco Arizona Holt on your graduation from CRIT Headstart, you bring so much joy to us and I love you so very much. Mom/Auntie Tedri

• Congrats to Ronelle and Mandy on your High School Graduation! Tedri

• Congratulations to our big boy Eythan Ray Lomayesva! Have fun in kindergarten. Love always Dad, Mom, Samson, Marilyn and Monroe.

• Congratulations Azalea Evanston, Savannah P., Kylie Fisher, Nicholas Martinez and Robin Wilson. From Kevin, Clare and family.

• Congratulations to our prides and joys: Ashley Ann Harper and Sydney Virginia Mamie Harper, who were promoted from Wallace Elementary to Parker High School on May 26. We are so proud of you both! Job well done — have a great summer! Love — Your moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles.

Brandon Harper, Allyx Lee Regan Harper and Erin Daye Thompson, who graduated from Parker High School on May 27. From children to young adults, you have always been loved and cherished. As you make your way in this big world, our prayers and love will continue to go with you. We are so proud of all three of you! Love — your moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles and cousins.

Tashina Sky Harper, who graduated from Arizona State University on May 13, 2009 with President Barack Obama looking on! You are the first of our family to achieve this high academic goal and we are so proud of your accomplishment! You have been a wonderful role model for our family and we wish you all the best for a fantastic future! Love — your mom and dad, brothers, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles and cousins.

• Congrats to Delayne Sakenima. Off to Kindergarten now! Love, Mama Ann, Justin and Jayde.

• Congrats to Chandel Sharp. Finally done with High School! From: Justin, Cheanne and Jayde.

• Dorinda Short, a.k.a. Bubbas. Congratulations on your graduation from two aunts and grandmas at 1709 Ocotillo.

• Troy Townsend from Wilma, Joana, Edith Yazzie.

• CONGRATULATIONS! To our baby girl, Tashina Sky Harper, on her recent graduation from Arizona State University! Baby Kailan is also very happy for his mom. Attendance at the commencement at ASU was difficult but historically worthwhile at Sun Devil Stadium to hear the President of the United States, Barack Obama give the graduation speech. The entire Harper and Frei Families are so very proud of you and wish you the all best the life has to offer. We love you, Mom and Dad and your brothers and sisters and KK.

• Amber E. Holmes, an enrolled member of CRIT, will be graduating from the University of Montana, College of Technology, on May 16 with a degree in surgical technology. Throughout her college career, Amber maintained a 3.5 GPA, and has received achievement awards for scholastic excellence. Amber will continue to strive for excellence as she goes out into the workforce.

Future plans include a return to school to obtain a Master of Science degree in a physician assistant program in hopes of further improving health care to Native Americans.

Amber is the daughter of Dennis Holmes and niece of Malinda White, Lilli Mae Townsend and Deanna Ormster. Amber is the granddaughter of the late Dan and Mabel Holmes of Parker. We, the family, are very proud of her.

• May 14 — Happy Graduation Benjamin Barrackman, CRIT Headstart 2009, love Daddy.

• May 27 — Congrats Charlee Kaye Barrackman for graduating from LePera. I am so proud of you, love Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and Aunties.

• We are the proud parents of Waylan Grant Stevens, who is a tribal member of CRIT and represents the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Navajo and Hopi Tribes. Waylan will be graduating from Tse Ho Tso Middle School located in Fort Defiance on May 28 at the Judd Avey Memorial Football Field.

We would like to share this wonderful news with our family and friends in Parker. Also, Waylan was accepted to the Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico, where he will work towards his high school diploma. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Monte Stevens Sr. & Larita L. Stevens
Monte Stevens Jr. (younger sibling)

• Congratulations! Troy T. Townsend on your graduation from Parker High School from Scooter, Shelly and Tracie Stanley.

• Congratulations to our "Purdee." You're truly our shooting star!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Maxx, Wava,
Bonn, and Blayz.



• Congratulations Jenny Corona (Jones).
You've made an enormous achievement. We are so proud of you.
Love, Auntie Mechan, Uncle Elroy, Maxx, Waverly, Airnn, Bonn, and Blayz

• Eugene Everett Eswonia, son of CRIT tribal member Eugene Rico Eswonia and Leann (Karnes) Eswonia is graduating from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees on June 13. Eugene is one of the six-member team that took top honors recently in the prestigious American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics competition at Boeing in Seattle.

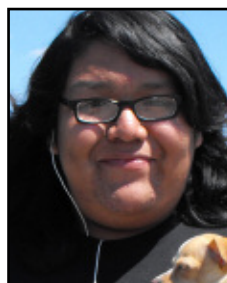
Young Eugene is a member of the Yavapai/Apache Nation in Camp Verde, the tribal affiliation of his paternal grandmother Frieda A. Eswonia, where he worked in the summer of 2007. He has lived in northern California all his life. He graduated high school from Del Norte High School in Crescent City, California in 2003. Eugene enjoys fishing and playing guitar along with his studies.



Congratulations to
all CRIT graduates
and best of luck to you
in your future
endeavors.



— The Manataba Messenger



— Birthdays & Family Announcements —

Birthdays

- June 30 — Happy 5th Birthday Eythan Ray Lomayesva! All our love Dad, Mom, Samson, Marilyn and Monroe.
- July 15 — Happy Birthday Grandma Millie. All our love Kevin, Clare, Samson, Eythan, Marilyn and Monroe.
- May 19 — Happy Belated Birthday Jacquie! Hope your birthday was great. May you have many blessings this coming year. Love you, Mom.
- June 4 — Happy Birthday Kali India Elvira Yazzie a.k.a. Sweetie, from Grandma Wilma.
- June 4 — Happy Birthday Wilma Yazzie from your friend Tedri and thanks so much for your encouraging words and wisdom!
- April 8 — Happy 15th Birthday Charlee, love Dad.
- April 7 — Happy Birthday Granthum Stevens, from your cuz Tommy and kids.
- May 15 — Happy Birthday Mom & Grandma, from the whole gang on 13th Ave.
- June 2 — Happy 10th Birthday Tawnee Marie, from Dad, Charlee, and Ben
- July 21 — Happy Birthday Benjamin Barrackman, love you lots Daddy.
- July 30 — Happy Birthday Denise Eswonia, from Uncle Tommy.

• Happy Birthday to the dedicated men and women of the CRIT Fire Department: June 15, Allen G. Welsh, June 29, Gabe Harper; July 19, Charles Duckey, Sr.; July 26, Kitty Little.

• We like to to wish a Happy 3rd Birthday to Trevani Esquerra. We love you mammas. With huges and kisses from Mom, Dad, Sisters Kalee and Danike, Brother Jordan, and Maria.

• We wish Cody Esquerra a Happy Birthday. Love, Uncle Chuck, Auntie Patty, Cousins, Jordan, Kalee, Tre, Danika.

• May 7 — Happy 1st Birthday to our Baby Danika Audrey Esquerra. We love you very much. With lots of love, Mom, Dad, Sisters Kalee and Trevani, Bro Jordan and Maria.

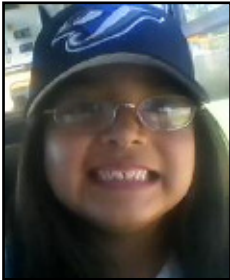
• May 3 — We would like to wish Happy Birthday to LaChelle Jose. Hope you have a great day. Lots of love from Auntie Patty, Uncle Chuck, Kae, Tre, Nika, Jordan, and Maria.

• May 30 — I would like to wish my brother Ansil Stone a Happy Birthday. Stay out of trouble bro. With lots of love...Love always, Your lil Sis, Patty and Chuck.

• May 30 — We want to wish our uncle Ansil a Happy Birthday. Love Always, Kae, Tre, Dae, and Maria.

• A HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THE ELMER KIDS THERE IN PARKER.....TO BUBZ.....TO MALCOLM.....AND SUN SUN.....TO ALL YOUR BIRTHDAYS...TO MY SISTER DANIELLE HAPPY BERFDAY TOO...TO MY BROTHER FROM ANOTHER MOTH....DAYUM ILL SEE YALL SOON....BUT HAPPY BERFDAYS TO ALL OF YOU....FROM ALL OF US ELMERS UP HERE.....

• Happy belated Birthday to our little princess, Savannah Drennan who turned 7 years old on March 18. We love you so much and we are so proud of your accomplishments. Love Mom, Dad and brother.



• Happy Birthday and Mother's Day to our mom/grandma Doris Burns, We love you and we're happy for you. Thanks for everything you've done for us, you're the best mom/grandma in the world. Love Rose, Bennett, Nanna and Son.

Anniversaries

• April 24 — Happy Anniversary Lionel and Ferdina Barrackman, from Marsha, Thomas, Dalton, Isiah, Charlee, Douglas, Tawnii, and Benjamin.

Mother's and Father's Day Announcements

• June 21 — Happy Father's Day Daddy. We love you. Eythan, Marilyn & Monroe.

• May 10 — Happy Mother's Day Mom (Fern), from Marsha, Kaye, and Tommy.

• May 10 — Happy Mother's Day Mom (Marsha), from your kids.

• Happy Mother's Day Shelly A. Short. Love, Tracie Jean and Scooter Stanley.

In Memory Of...

• In Memory of Patronella Swick — Beloved Mother and Grandmother
January 08, 1939-July 9, 2007
Just A Memory Away...
I'm no longer by your side,
but there's no need to weep;
I've left sweet recollections
I'm hoping you will keep.
Eternal joys and memories
stay in our hearts forever,
Strengthening our special bond
that parting cannot sever.
Now it's time to journey on,
So let your faith be strong.
For I am in a better place...
I am home where I belong.
And if time of loneliness
bring sorrow and dismay,
Don't despair, for I am there...
Just A Memory Away.
Love Ingrid and Tracie Stanley

• Jennifer Janice Pablo:
The Twenty-Third Psalm
Native American Version
The GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD CHIEF is.
I am His and with Him I want not
He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love
and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous,
and I eat and lie down and I am satisfied.
Sometimes my heard is very weak and falls down but He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.
His name is WONDERFUL.
Sometimes it may be very soon, it may be a long time,
He will draw me into the valley.
It is dark there but I will be afraid not,
for it is between those mountains that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me
and the hunger that I have in my heart all through life will be satisfied.
Sometimes He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean upon.
He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.
He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.
My cup He fills until it runs over.
What I tell is true and I lie not.
These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me throughout this life and after;
and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Tepee and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF forever.



You may send your submissions for birthdays, anniversaries, or memorials via e-mail to feedback@critonline.com.

www.critonline.com

Breaking News & Updates
Key Tribal information
Past issues of the Manataba Messenger
Contact info for Tribal departments
Submit feedback to the Messenger
And much, much more!

Colorado River Indian Tribes website screenshot showing news articles and a sidebar with contact information.

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New runway completed at CRIT Avi Suquilla airport in Parker

The CRIT Avi Suquilla Airport in Parker recently completed a three-year project to build a new runway at the airport.

The multi-million dollar project, which opened and had its dedication ceremony in early May, will allow larger jet planes to fly into the area, opening up access to Parker-area businesses and attractions like the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

Ted Swendra, Airport Manager, said the new runway also provides enhanced safety features, but the primary benefits will be economic ones for the area.

“It provides a greater margin of safety for existing aircraft, but it also will be able to handle the larger corporate aircraft, such as what some of the airplane fractional ownership companies have expressed an interest in flying into the area,” Swendra said. “It gives us the ability to start marketing the casino and other local businesses more broadly, since we can now take more charter flights in.”

The new runway is 6,250 feet long by 100 feet wide, and replaces the previously existing runway’s services.

The old runway was not demolished, and will

be in service as a taxiway for the new runway.

The new runway also meets all Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations, with fully updated and modern navigation aides and lighting. The project took three years from concept to completion, and the approximately \$7 million construction cost was 95 percent funded by grants from the Federal Aviation Administration. CRIT provided the other 5 percent of the funding.

“I think the overall impact is going to be long-term in the enhancement of our ability to bring in new businesses,” Swendra said.

CLAW,

From Page 1

switch Tribal affiliation, and Claw became a member of CRIT.

Claw worked at Le Pera School as a bus driver for several years before going to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a water manager. He retired from BIA after 20 years of service.

Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas said that Claw was an inspiration for many Tribal members because of his service to his community and to his country.

“Tom Claw was a great man and someone we were all very proud to have as part of our tribe,” he said. “His contributions to his country were immeasurable, but his contributions to his community and the way he inspired our people to become better citizens was equally important.”

The Tribal Council underwrote the entire cost of the funeral service, police escort, and the reception that was held at the BlueWater Resort & Casino in the Bingo room. The reception was packed with close to 500 people. Dignitaries from the Navajo Nation also attended the event, and presented the family with a proclamation honoring Mr. Claw as a Navajo Code Talker.

Tribal Councilman Dennis Welsh said that Mr. Claw was one of the most respected elders in the Tribal community. “Mr. Claw was a personal friend of mine,” Welsh said. “He was not only a very humble man, but a great man who gave a lot of himself to his family, our tribe, and our country. Being of Navajo descent myself, he made you proud to be Navajo.”

Claw was the last of five Navajo Code Talkers who lived on the CRIT Reservation. The others were Ambrose Howard Sr., William "Bill" McCabe, Tom Gorman and Joe Palmer.

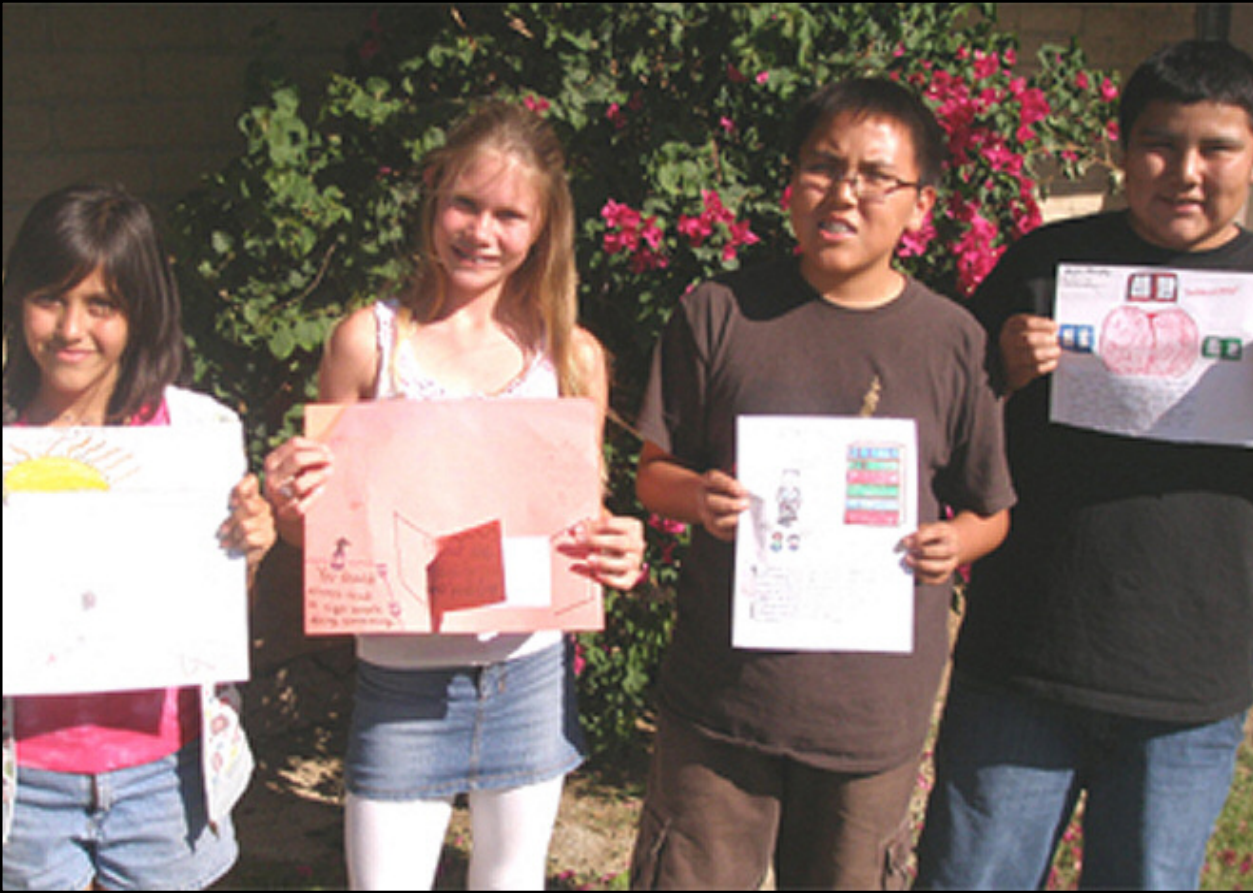
Claw is survived by wife Barbara, children, Pauline James, Gloria Claw, Carolyn Hammond, and Harold Claw, of Parker; and Reynold Claw, of Clearfield, Utah. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Poston Community Baptist Church, with Pastor Shawn Thompson serving as officiant. The 6th Engineering Support Battalion of the Marine Corps, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7061 and American Legion Post No. 70 conducted military honors at the services.

Claw was interned in the Veteran's Section of the Parker Cemetery.

(Note: This article contains information from *The Parker Pioneer*.)

Library recognizes young artists



As part of the CRIT Library’s National Library Week celebration a Kids Community Art Contest was held. The winners were (from left) Ariana Ortega, Rochelle Rippy, Alex Murphy and Alias Murphy. Entries were based upon the theme “What Reading Means to the CRIT Reservation.” The students were awarded a trip on April 24 to Hastings in Lake Havasu where there were allowed \$25 to purchase educational supplies. For more information and photos from the events, visit www.critlibrary.com.

Notice of a Public Hearing

For the Proposed Amendments to CRIT's Law & Order Code

Date: Monday, June 15, 2009

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Place: Tribal Council Chambers

Proposed Amendments can be found at www.critonline.com,
CRIT Library and the CRIT Administration Building

CRIT attractions highlighted in state’s largest newspaper

Some of CRIT’s main tourist attractions were highlighted in a recent edition of *The Arizona Republic*, the state’s largest newspaper.

Hundreds of thousands of *Republic* readers were introduced to the CRIT Reservation on April 23 when it was profiled in the “Road Trip” feature in the paper’s “Cars” section.

In an article titled “Exploring ‘obscure’ Arizona,” reporter John Stanley highlighted some of the experiences to be had on the CRIT Reservation, including a spotlight on the Poston Memorial Monument.

“The southwestern part of the state remains a sort of terra incognita for many Arizonans. Despite the barren, boring landscape you may imagine in the region, the area from Ehrenberg to Parker holds an interesting combination of scrub desert and scenic mountains, ancient cultures and World War II history, irrigated fields and casinos,” Stanley wrote.

The BlueWater Resort & Casino was prominently featured in the article as well, with the article commenting on its gaming, dining and “fine views of the Colorado River.”

The route the article suggested starts in Ehrenberg and goes up through the Reservation, then back down to Quartzsite.

The “Road Trip” feature is an ongoing feature in the paper that provides suggested routes for day-long or longer trips to locations throughout Arizona.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

CARS.COM

CL1

ROAD TRIP

Exploring ‘obscure’ Arizona

By John Stanley
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The southwestern part of the state remains a sort of terra incognita for many Arizonans. Despite the barren, boring landscape you may imagine in the region, the area from Ehrenberg to Parker holds an interesting combination of scrub desert and scenic mountains, ancient cultures and World War II history, irrigated fields and casinos.

Things to note on the way:

» **Ehrenberg:** Most travelers blow right by Ehrenberg on their way to or from California. You’d never know it now, but the unassuming little community, originally named Mineral City, once was an important shipping point on the Colorado River. Herman Christian Ehrenberg, an emigrant from Germany, surveyed the town site in the early 1860s. Ehrenberg was murdered in the Mojave Desert in 1866, and a friend, Michael Goldwater (Barry’s grandfather), suggested renaming the town in his memory.

» **Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation:** Encompassing more than 300,000 acres, the reservation stretches along the banks of the Colorado River from just north of Ehrenberg to nearly 10 miles north of Parker. Formed in 1865 for members of the Mohave and Chemehuevi tribes, the reservation allowed mem-

bers of the Hopi and Navajo tribes to settle in the area for a few years after World War II. Today, about 3,500 Native Americans live in the area.

Details: 928-669-7037, crit-nsn.gov.

» **BlueWater Resort:** Every room at this hotel near Parker offers fine views of the Colorado River. You can grab a bite at the BlueWater Grille or dine in the River Willow Restaurant. The casino has slots, blackjack, poker, keno and a 1,300-seat bingo hall. A four-screen movie theater is next door. 11300 Resort Drive. Details: 928-669-7000, bluewaterfun.com.

Map showing the route from Phoenix to Parker via Ehrenberg and Quartzsite. The route is marked with a red line and includes labels for Phoenix, Quartzsite, Ehrenberg, Parker, and the Colorado River. A scale bar indicates 10 miles.

BlueWater Resort & Casino. Craggy peaks form the backdrop for the BlueWater Resort and Casino, near Parker.

Total miles: About 350, round trip. From central Phoenix, take Interstate 10 west to Ehrenberg. Go north on the Ehrenberg-Parker Highway (aka Mohave Road) about 43 miles to Parker. Return by taking Arizona 95 south to Quartzsite, then I-10 east to Phoenix.

Don't miss: The Poston Memorial Monument and Kiosk. On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of about 120,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II. Nearly 18,000 of those internees — men, women and children — were incarcerated in three camps in the Poston area from May 1942 to November 1945. The monument, a 30-foot-high pillar, was designed by architect Ray Takata and dedicated in 1992. Twelve smaller pillars arranged around the central pillar form a sundial. Look for the monument just south of Poston, about 28 miles north of Ehrenberg.

Details: postonalliance.org.

Poston Memorial Monument. The Poston Memorial Monument.

CRIT Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance & Graduates

Wallace Elementary Perfect Attendance
Spencer Moore

Wallace Elementary Honor Roll
Anferny Fisher
Annie Carlyle
Cassandra Miller
Darian Flores
Jordan Esquerra
Kordell Duckey
Micah Gonzalez
Patricia Pena
Stacia Scott
Lainee Scott
Maria Trevino
Mariah Sharpe

Le Pera Honor Roll
Alexandria Alvarado
Andrew Scott
Bailey Martin
Destinee Swick
Devin Leivas

Le Pera Perfect Attendance
Alfonso Soto
Angelina Flores
Breon Kaibetony
Devin Leivas
Jacob Sandoval
Lisa Logan
Lorena Flores
Marcus Tuchawena
Marijayne Leivas

Olivia Esquerra
Rojelio Flores
Antenor Esquerra

Blake Perfect Attendance
Jason Amador
Mariah Moore
Shane Robledo

Wallace Junior High Principal’s Honor Roll
Alayna Amador
Ashley Harper
Taylor Gonzales Bush

Wallace Junior High Honor Roll
Alex Murphy
Cameron Booth
Lane Drennan
Lindsey Fisher
Samantha Honadick
Shawni Laffoon
Talia Chavez
Vanessa Olivares
Zoe Russell

Wallace Junior High Perfect Attendance
Alayna Amador
Ashley Harper
Brie Miller
Bryan Miller
Carrigan McCowan
Nina Drennan

Ombudsman Grads
Daniel Castro
Joseph Chavez
Aimee Fisher
Meagon Fisher
Tomacita Gonzales
Jor-El Yellowboy

GED Grads
Lisa Swich
Noah Charles

Parker High School Grads
Brittney Booth
Tiffany Casares
Jennifer Corona
Marcus Fisher
Maryam Gary
James Gilchrist
Allyx Harper
Brandon Harper
Kyle Humeumtewa
Ava Miller
Ranelle Miller
Jay Moore
Joshua Moore
Marquita Nevayaktewa
Christina Patch
Mitchell Sharp
Dorinda Short
Erin Thompson
Troy Townsend
Leah Van Fleet
Robin Wilson



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We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

If you have a question, story idea, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

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Parker, AZ 85344
(928) 669-1233 or
(928) 669-1223
feedback@critonline.com

Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

www.critonline.com

**Don't forget the
August photo contest!**

Advertise With Us!

Now you can reach the 3,800 members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes directly. *Manataba Messenger*, the official publication of CRIT, is distributed by mail to all members and at newsstands at prominent locations throughout the Parker area, including the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

**For more information, please call
(928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.**

Housing projects nearing completion

Focus will shift to finding ways to build variety of housing products in Parker

Construction is wrapping up on two state-funded projects to improve the affordable housing stock in Parker for Tribal members. CRIT Villas, a new subdivision with 25 homes located on 16th Street across from CRIT Lodge in Parker, is about to be completed and will soon be ready for residents to occupy.

The new project includes both single-family homes and duplexes.

CRIT's Colorado River Residential Management Corporation received a grant from the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program last year to fund the new homes.

Also, renovation and remodeling of CRIT Lodge will be completed shortly, improving the housing options for seniors and elders in the community. The renovations were also paid for by the grant.

Construction of the new subdivision and renovation of CRIT Lodge both took less than a year to complete.

"They have been very smooth projects as far as contracting goes, and there have been no real issues," said Richard Armstrong, a Tribal Council member and Chairman of the CRRMC Board.

CRRMC is still taking applications from Tribal members for the new lower-income housing. Armstrong said the application process is stringent because CRIT wants to make sure the tenants that move in will take care of the properties properly.

Tribal members interested in the properties should contact CRRMC at (928) 669-9816.



Construction is finishing up on CRIT Villas, a subdivision with 25 new homes in Parker, built for Tribal members with a grant from the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Armstrong said that CRRMC will now shift its focus to new projects and opportunities.

"We've thought about doing the next project, but we need to make sure we have a viable plan for the community," he said.

Armstrong said one area that may be addressed is the need for more middle-class housing in the community. Many professionals in the area choose to live in Lake Havasu City because of the lack of housing in Parker, and it puts CRIT and Parker in a competitive disadvantage.

"It's difficult for us to provide good housing to the middle class," he said. "We have to take a step back and think about how we are going to continue to meet housing needs, because we need to address this issue."

The CRIT Villas project is one of the largest projects the organization has undertaken over the past 30 years.